EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA - PHILADELPHIA

IN THE MATTER OF: . Case #21-11750-MC

MIDNIGHT MADNESS DISTILLING,. Philadelphia, PA

INC.,

September 15, 2021

. 1:52:45 p.m. Debtor.

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING RE:

MOTION TO SELL PROPERTY FREE AND CLEAR OF LIENS UNDER SECTION 363(F) AND SOME OTHER RELIEF THAT IS REQUESTED, FILED BY MIDNIGHT MADNESS DISTILLING, LLC BEFORE THE HONORABLE MAGELINE D. COLEMAN, J.U.S.B.C.

APPEARANCES:

For the Debtor: WILLIAM BURNETT, ESQ.

HARRY GIACOMETTI, ESQ.

Flaster Greenberg

1835 Market Street, Suite 1050

Philadelphia, PA 19103

For MILLSTONE SPIRITS JOEL PERRELL, ESQ.

GROUP, LLC: PATRICIA JEFFERSON, ESQ.

Miles and Stockbridge Law

100 Light Street

Baltimore, MD 21202

PACCAR FINANCIAL

BANKSHARES REALTY

AGTECH

ISUZU FINANCE OF AMERICA Edward Sheintoch, Esq. CITY OF PHILADELPHIA Megan Harper, Esq.

U.S. TRUSTEE

ETOH WORLDWIDE LLC

MIDNIGHT MADNESS DIST.

WILLIAM F. COMLY & SON

Howard Gershman, Esq.

TTB DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY Anthony St. Joseph, Esq.

Jennifer Maleski, Esq.

Matthew Hamermesh, Esq.

Kevin Callahan, Esq.

Carrie Drangula, Esq.

Casey Parzych, President

Jim Comly

ELECTRONIC SOUND RECORDING OPERATOR:

Proceedings Recorded by FTR Gold Digital Recording Transcript Produced by Certified Transcription Service

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       (At 1:52 p.m.)
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                          So, this is Midnight Madness Distilling.
              THE COURT:
       Before the Court today is the motion to sell property free
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       and clear liens under 363(F), and some other related relief
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       that is requested. I think that is the only matter that is
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       up for today. Correct?
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              MR. WILLIAM BURNETT: Yes, Your Honor.
              THE COURT: Appearances please.
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              MR. BURNETT: Your Honor, William Burnett, and Harry
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       Giacometti, Flaster Greenberg, on behalf of the Debtor,
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       Midnight Madness.
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              MR. HOWARD GERSHMAN: Howard Gershman, on behalf of
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       Paccar Financial Corporation.
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              MR. ANTHONY ST. JOSEPH: Anthony St. Joseph, on
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       behalf of the TTB, Department of Treasury.
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              THE COURT: I'm sorry, what did you say, Mr. St.
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       Joseph:
              MR. ST. JOSEPH: I'm sorry. On behalf of the TTB,
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       which is part of the Department of the Treasury, for the
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       United States.
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              THE COURT: And that's TTPB? Is that what you said
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       Mr. St. Joseph?
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              MR. ST. JOSEPH: I'm sorry, Your Honor, I quickly-
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              THE COURT: -- I know. I saw that you went on mute.
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       That's fine.
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MR. ST. JOSEPH: I had gone to mute. Let me make sure I actually have my client, that I am saying the name correctly. Yes, T-T-B. So the - and this is the first time I have represented them. So, the Alcohol Tobacco, Tax and Trade Bureau, which is a - falls underneath the Department of Treasury, Your Honor. THE COURT: Okay. TTB? MR. ST. JOSEPH: Yes, that is our acronym, TTB. Which there are three t's in the name, but they only use two t's in the acronym, TTB. THE COURT: Okay. Hold on one second. Okay, I'm So, Tobacco - and what is the other T? MR. ST. JOSEPH: It's Tobacco, Tax, and Trade Bureau. Actually, Alcohol, Tobacco, Tax and Trade Bureau. THE COURT: All right. MR. ST. JOSEPH: And we shorten it to TTB. THE COURT: Okay. Who else? MS. JENNIFER MALESKI: Good afternoon, Your Honor, Jennifer Maleski, Dilworth Paxon, on behalf of Bankshares Realty, LLC., which is the successor in interest to PNC Bank, and PNC Equipment Finance, the current holders of the loans given by those entities. But it is a PNC subsidiary. So feel free to refer to us at PNC. THE COURT: Okay, thank you. MR. JOEL PERRELL: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Joel

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Perrell, from Miles and Stockbridge, on behalf of Millstone Spirits Group, LLC, the proposed Buyer, under the - pursuant to the sale. With me today is Patricia Jefferson, also from my firm, who has been admitted pro hac vice, in this case, Your Honor, at docket number 158. MR. MATTHEW HAMERMESH: Your Honor, Matthew Hamermesh, of Hangley, Aronchick, Segal, Pudlin and Schiller, representing ETOH Worldwide and Agtech. Who is your second client, Mr. Hamermesh? THE COURT: MR. HAMERMESH: Agtech, A-G-T-E-C-H. THE COURT: Okay. Anyone else? MR. EDWARD SHEINTOCH: Yes, Your Honor. Sheintoch, from Sheintoch and Sheintoch Law. I represent the Isuzu Finance of America on one lease, and Tokyo Century acquired another lease, equipment lease. So, who do you represent, again? THE COURT: MR. SHEINTOCH: The original leases, Your Honor, were Isuzu Finance of America. And on one equipment lease it was acquired by Tokyo Century, USA, Inc. THE COURT: Counsel, could you hold one second. Counsel, and I will apologize now, there are certain phone calls that - that represent an emergency, that I will have to take, if I receive one of those calls. Okay. I apologize, Mr. Sheintoch, who do you represent again? MR. SHEINTOCH: Thanks, Your Honor, and totally #21-11750 9-15-2021

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1 understood. One lease it is Isuzu Finance of America, Your 2 And the original lease on the other one was Isuzu, 3 but it was assigned to a company called Tokyo Century. THE COURT: Okay. Okay. Anyone else? 4 5 MS. MEGAN HARPER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Megan 6 Harper for the city of Philadelphia. 7 THE COURT: Anyone else? MR. KEVIN CALLAHAN: Your Honor, this is Kevin 8 9 Callahan, for the United States Trustee. 10 THE COURT: Anyone else? 11 MS. CARRIE DRANGULA: Good afternoon, Your Honor. 12 This Carrie Drangula, on behalf of ETOH Worldwide, LLC. 13 THE COURT: So, you are the representative, or are 14 you - of the company Mr. Hamermesh just is your client? 15 MR. DRANGULA: I am a representative of the company. 16 THE COURT: Yes. 17 MR. HAMERMESH: Yes, Your Honor. 18 THE COURT: Do we have any other representative of 19 any other parties? 20 MR. BURNETT: Your Honor, - Your Honor, this is 21 William Burnett again. I just wanted to say that I have my 22 client who will be testifying, Gary Parzych. And I have Jim 2.3 Comly as well, who will also be testifying, of Comly 24 Auctioneers. 25 MS. PATRICIA JEFFERSON: Your Honor, Patricia

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       Jefferson-
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                          Hold on. Hold on one second.
              THE COURT:
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              MS. JEFFERSON: Certainly.
              THE COURT: I'm sorry, who was - I interrupted, I
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       apologize. Who is this?
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              MS. JEFFERSON: Your Honor, Patricia Jefferson, on
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      behalf of Millstone Spirit Group. Mr. Perrell already
       introduced me. I was admitted pro hac vice and I just wanted
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       to note, for the Court, that Robert Cassell, who is the
       President of Millstone Spirit Group is appearing at the
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      hearing, although we don't anticipate any testimony from him.
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              THE COURT: So, you are - you represent the proposed
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      Buyer, together with Mr.-
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              MS. JEFFERSON: -- Perrell, that is correct.
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              THE COURT: -- Perrell. Am I pronouncing that
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       correctly, Perrell?
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              MR. PERRELL: Yes, Your Honor, Perrell, correct.
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              THE COURT: And Robert Cassell is the representative
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       of the proposed Buyer?
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              MS. JEFFERSON: That is correct.
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              THE COURT: Okay. So, Mr. Cassell is not on video.
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      Mr. Parzych is not on video.
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              MR. BURNETT: Your Honor, I think I made a mistake,
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      because I - I saw the box pickup. Casey Parzych is on video,
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       and he is the one that is testifying. I guess Gary is also
                                                      9-15-2021
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on the line, but he is not with MMD. 1 2 And who is Gary? Parzych right? THE COURT: 3 MR. BURNETT: Yes. Who is he and why is he participating? 4 THE COURT: 5 MR. BURNETT: I don't know why he is participating. 6 I believe he is Casey's father. 7 THE COURT: Mr. Parzych? Mr. Parzych, Casey Parzych, is - so, Mr. Gary Parzych is participating because? 8 9 MR. CASEY PARZYCH: I'm not actually sure. He is a 10 leaseholder related to the Debtor. I wasn't expecting him. 11 THE COURT: I mean he's - I mean you can - I mean if 12 we were in court he could just come in. I'm just wanting to know what his role was. Is he just observing, Mister - Mr. 13 14 Parzych, Gary Parzych, are you just observing? What - why 15 are you here today? Hello? 16 Judge, this is John. He may be on a desktop 17 computer and does not have working microphone. He actually sent a private chat message earlier that he couldn't hear us. 18 19 So, I am wondering if it is because of something like that. 20 THE COURT: Okay. All right. I mean you can come in 21 the court and observe. I just like to know who is here and 22 why, that's all. Okay. All right. So, is there anybody 23 else? Let's see, Mr. Cassell is for, representing the 24 proposed Buyer. Did everybody enter their appearance or been 25 identified? I think so. Okay. All right. Mr. Burnett are 9-15-2021 #21-11750

you or Mr. Giacometti handling the sale motion? 1 2 MR. BURNETT: Your Honor, I will be principally, maybe exclusively, but principally for certain. 3 THE COURT: 4 Okay. 5 MR. BURNETT: May I proceed? 6 THE COURT: Well, first tell me where are we, because 7 I know there were some limited objections filed. And I am not quite sure [inaudible] with them. I didn't see anything 8 9 [inaudible]. So, tell me where we are. 10 MR. BURNETT: Your Honor, I am - we are generally -11 have what I believe is an uncontested sale hearing, virtually 12 uncontested. I think all of the objections have been 13 resolved. If I might, if I could give about a five minute 14 sort of overview of where we are in the process. THE COURT: Okay. 15 16 MR. BURNETT: My thought process is to give a slight 17 overview, and then to yield to Ms. Jefferson, who represents 18 the Buyer, to talk about all the work that she has done 19 resolving the objections. And then to go to the proffers. 20 If - if appropriate. I mean obvious-21 THE COURT: -- Okay. That's fine. 22 MR. BURNETT: Okay. So, Your Honor, like I said, 23 William Burnett, Flaster Greenberg, on behalf of MMD, the 24 Debtor, Chapter 11 Debtor here. So, Your Honor, as I said, 25 we had largely an uncontested sale hearing today. There have

been several objections that have been filed, over the last several weeks. Most notably PNC, the U.S. Trustee, TTB, Isuzu and Paccar. And those have been fully resolved, or largely resolved, as I understand it, and we can go through that as this goes on.

What this sale hearing really is, Your Honor, is a 363 sale process that worked really as bankruptcy has intended it to work. We had a stalking horse bid that was marked very widely by Comly and the good work that Jim Comly has done. And it yielded many expressions of interest, which resulted in an auction that - that had three bidders, including the stalking horse. And the price, for the purchase price of the assets went from 1.025 million to 1.4 million dollars, plus a substantial other consideration that the winning bidder, Millstone, is offering.

All parties worked together showing flexibility, hard work and willingness to get this done. The objectors and most notably the successful bidder, Millstone, and their counsel, Patty Jefferson.

So, what we have done, Your Honor, is, just to back up, we filed the sale motion on the first day. Some of the deadlines got pushed back a bit. We needed to do that to accommodate the bidders, to accommodate the process. We did that on notice to the creditors, on notice to potential interested parties, and so, we had an auction on the 25th of

August, which yielded this result, which I will go through in a minute. The stalking horse bid, which was originally filed with an APA needed to be changed to, in order to harmonize the bids between the stalking horse and the ultimate successor, Millstone. A lot of that was done on the record, at the auction. And then had to be memorialized and tweaked a bit to adjust for all of the subsequent objections, which were filed and or on record.

And I am going to give a very brief highlight, very high level overview of where we are with the objections. The documents, of course, speak for themselves. And some of the details are a lot more specific.

But basically what we have the sale, as I said, is for 1.4 million. And the - what it does is the sale gives \$50,000.00 available to the estate, which Millstone has agreed to carve out, to make available for creditors. And PNC is backstopping this to ensure that it occurs. And we can go through the details, but I am just giving you a high - high level view.

There is a provision, in the Millstone agreement that pays for the Agtech and ETOH leases. There were postpetition charges that were accruing but not being paid. And there is a provision that Millstone will pay those administrative claims of Agtech and ETOH subject to a court order, from this Court, subject to a Motion Court Order, and

you know, whatever hearing and objection process there is. That is specified in the document.

There is also a carve out provided, in the - in the Sale Order and purchase agreement, for up to \$300,000.00 to pay trailing administrative claims. And the concept here is, Your Honor, that after the closing of the sale, there won't be administrative claims, Chapter 11 accrued administrative claims left unpaid. The concept is that, you know, the trade creditors will be paid, the administrative claim creditors will be paid, and this will not be an administratively insolvent case. PNC and Millstone, as well as the U.S. Trustee worked hard to have that happen.

Also, there is a closing schedule to occur by the 30th of September. And there are some other bits and pieces, details where the Debtor is providing a vendor list and employee list, and the TTB has the - excuse me, the Debtor is also providing TTB formulas as well, a list of those. Those are new provisions from the - from the original stalking horse. Of course this is an "as is" "where is" sale, as provided in the APA. And there were a couple changes to the assumed contracts that were made from the stalking horse to today.

But basically, through the changes that were made, through discussions that were had, that, you know, we can go through each of the objections that were lodged and - and I

would like to yield to Ms. Jefferson to kind of go through all the hard work that she did, to iron all those things out, as represented in the Sale Order and the, to a lesser extent, in the APA. If I might.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you, Your Honor. Patricia

Jefferson, again, on behalf of the proposed Buyer, Millstone

Spirits Group. Your Honor, I thought it might be most

efficient for me to just walk through the various objections

that were filed, explain how they have been resolved, and

then, to the extent that I have not accurately represented

anything, I believe each of those objecting parties is

represented on the record here today, and they can - they can

correct me if need be.

THE COURT: Okav.

MS. JEFFERSON: The first objection was the limited objection file by Paccar Financial Corporation, docket 75.

They filed a supplemental objection at docket number 134.

The basis for that objection is that Paccar is a secured creditor and holds a purchase money security interest in two vehicles that were included in the sale. The contract gave its assignment, and Paccar did not consent, absent a credit application.

By way of resolution, Millstone has submitted the requested credit applications and has been approved by Paccar

for credit. And so, between now and the closing date,
Millstone and Paccar will finalized and execute any necessary
paperwork for new documentation. But I believe that
objection is resolved. The --

MR. GERSHMAN: -- If you want me to confirm, on behalf of Paccar, yes, Ms. Jefferson is correct. And to that extent, we concur with the sale, and withdraw or objection.

THE COURT: Okay. So, that is withdrawn. Are you withdrawing the objection 75 and - is it 134, the supplement?

MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, 134.

THE COURT: Okay. Okay.

MS. JEFFERSON: The next objection that was filed was the objection by PNC Bank, NA, and PNC Equipment Finance LLC, which was docket number 76. That was filed prior to the auction. And many of the issues that were raised related to the form of the auction itself, and the original proposed sale to the stalking horse bidder. It is my understanding that all of the remaining issues have been resolved, to PNC's satisfaction, and that the PNC objection is being deemed withdrawn as well.

MS. MALESKI: Your Honor, Jennifer Maleski, on behalf of, I'll just say, PNC. I can confirm that we have resolved all issues, with Ms. Jefferson's client, through language in the proposed Sale Order, and Asset Purchase Agreement, subject to approval of that order and Asset Purchase

Agreement as proposed, PNC's objection can be deemed withdrawn. We do reserve the rights, if there is any changes to the language that has been negotiated.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. JEFFERSON: The next objection that was filed is the objection of the United States of America, on behalf of the Alcohol, Tobacco, Tax and Trade Bureau, which we are referring to today as the TTB. That is docket 139. The basis for that objection was twofold.

First, they objected because the original proposed sale to the stalking horse bidder, they argued, violated 27CFR1.80 that prohibits the sale of distilled spirits in bulk, except to certain enumerated classes of parties. And the second basis for the objection, by the TTB, was that the sale of the inventory was proposed to be free and clear of all liens. However, the government holds a lien for excise tax that comes into existence at the time the spirit is created, and is not payable until the sprits are withdrawn from a bonded premises.

In order to address both of those issues, Millstone provided counsel to the United States, and the TTB, a copy of Millstones' TTB permit that has satisfied the TTB that Millstone is a party that is approved as a matter of federal law, to receive possession of distilled spirits in bulk.

With respect to the issue of the sale clear and free

of liens, the Asset Purchase Agreement, and the proposed Sale Order, specifically decretal paragraph five, provide that any inventory to which a lien for excise tax has attached, shall be sold to Millstone subject to that lien. And the United States has been added to Schedule 103 of the Asset Purchase Agreement, as an assumed liability.

With those changes, I believe that the objection of the TTB has been resolved. And counsel to the TTB has reviewed and signed off on the proposed language.

MR. ST. JOHN: Your Honor, this is Anthony St. Joseph, for the TTB. Just concurring and withdrawing our objection based on the agreement we have reached with counsel for the purchaser.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you, Your Honor. For a moment, I am going to - I am going to skip, chronologically, the objection of the United States Trustee, and if it is okay, take that one last.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. JEFFERSON: And so, the next objection was docket 144, the limited objection of Isuzu Finance of America, Inc. The basis for that objection was similar to the objection filed by Paccar, except that the Isuzu term of its agreement expired in August. We have agreed that Isuzu can pick up its truck and that that particular vehicle will be carved out of

the sale, which I believe resolves Isuzu's objection.

And coupled with that is the objection filed at docket 145, which is the limited objection of Tokyo Century USA, Inc., an affiliated party. The same basis for the objection, except that with respect to that particular truck Millstone will be submitting the necessary credit applications and between now and the closing date, we will either allow Tokyo Century USA to - we will have an agreement that they can pick the truck up, or they will approve our credit application and - and we will move forward in the same way that we are moving forward with Paccar.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. JEFFERSON: Mr. Sheintoch, I think you are on mute. I don't know if you wanted to weigh in.

MR. SHEINTOCH: Your Honor, Ms. Jefferson has properly stated our agreement, and we will withdraw our two limited objections. Thank you.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. JEFFERSON: The next objection is the limited objection filed at docket 170, by Agtech IV LLC and ETOH Worldwide LLC. Agtech and ETOH were the stalking horse bidders. They objected to the extent that the Asset Purchase Agreement and Sale Order don't provide for payment of their administrative expense claims and payment of their expense reimbursements.

By way of resolution, Section 103(d) of the Asset

Purchase Agreement does provide that Millstone shall pay the

administrative expense claims of Agtech and ETOH, upon them

filing a motion, and entry of an order allowing the claim.

Section 105 of the Asset Purchase Agreement provides for

payment of the expense reimbursement up to \$100,000.00 once

that expense reimbursement is approved by the Court.

And so, while I have not had direct conversation, with Agtech and ETOH's counsel, regarding their objection, I do believe that the terms of the Asset Purchase Agreement, and the proposed Order should resolve their concerns about payment of those claims.

MR. HAMERMESH: Your Honor, this is Mr. Hamermesh. So, though the proposed order and the Asset Purchase Agreement do address those two issues, there was another issue we raised in our limited objection, which is that the expense reimbursement provision, in the bidding order, requires that we file a request for expense reimbursement shortly after the closing happens. So, I just wanted to — what I was — wanted to ask Ms. Jefferson and Mr. Burnett, for assurance that I would be advised when the hearing — when the closing is scheduled, and within 24 hours that it happened, so that we can meet the deadline in the bidding procedures.

MS. JEFFERSON: You will - we will certainly agree to provide written notice, to Mr. Hamermesh, of the proposed

1 closing date, and then, on the closing date confirming that 2 it has actually occurred. 3 MR. HAMERMESH: That's fine, thank you. MR. BURNETT: Is that enough? We don't need to 4 5 change the Order to reflect that? 6 MR. HAMERMESH: No. 7 MR. BURNETT: Okay. So, with that, Your Honor, I believe 8 MS. JEFFERSON: 9 the objections filed at docket 170 can be deemed satisfied. 10 THE COURT: Mr. Hamermesh? That's - she said that-11 MR. HAMERMESH: -- Yes. 12 THE COURT: -- [inaudible] deemed satisfied. Which 13 one? 14 MR. HAMERMESH: We will withdraw it, with the 15 assurance - give the form of the purchase order and the Asset 16 Purchase Agreement, and the assurance about notice of the 17 closing, we will withdraw it. 18 THE COURT: Okay. 19 MS. JEFFERSON: Your Honor, the final objection is 20 the objection filed by the United States Trustee, at docket 21 140. There were a number of issues raised in that objection, 22 three specifically. 23 The first being a concern regarding the sale of the 24 Debtors Chapter 5 causes of action. The second concern being 25 whether or not the sale would render the estate

administratively insolvent. The third concern being whether there was sufficient information to determine whether there is a legitimate bankruptcy purpose to the sale.

Addressing each of those in turn, Section 1.01k of the Asset Purchase Agreement, and decretal paragraph 10 of the Sale Order, limit the Chapter 5 causes of action being sold to the Buyer to those actions against the Buyer, its affiliates, and the holder of any assumed liability. There should not be any cause of action against the Buyer or its affiliates, because they had no prebankruptcy business relationship with the Debtor. The holder of the assumed liabilities is a very limited list. And I think it is entirely normal and appropriate that a buyer requests that the parties it intends to do business with going forward not be potentially rendered insolvent by a cause of action.

The respect to the second concern, regarding the administrative expenses of the estate, the Buyer has agreed to a cash holdback mechanism found in Section 109 of the Asset Purchase Agreement, and addressed in decretal paragraph of the Sale Order. The original sale, to the stalking horse bidder, proposed the sale of the Debtor's cash and cash equivalents. Millstone has agreed to provide for an amount up to \$300,000.00 of the Debtor's cash. And when I say up to, because if there is less than \$300,000.00 of cash on hand, it would be whatever that amount is.

So, up to \$300,000.00 of cash shall remain in the Debtors DIV account, subject to an administrative hold, by PNC, for payment of administrative claims. We have built in a procedure whereby requests for payment of those claims be submitted to the Debtor. The Debtor will request Millstone's approval. Within two business days, we will either approve or disapprove, with a reason. If we disapprove payment of the claim, that party is free to avail itself of Section 503 and can come to the court and seek payment of these claims. But that money is frozen and available for payment of those claims.

Based on my conversations, with PNC, who has been monitoring the historic levels of the DIV account, as well as my conversations with Debtor's counsel, we believe that the \$300,000.00 cushion should be more than sufficient to address all of the trailing administrative expense claims that need to be paid. That amount is not being applied to the ETOH and Agtech claims. Those are separate liabilities being assumed by the Buyer.

Additionally, there was concern raised, by the U.S.

Trustee, about the bankrupt - legitimate bankruptcy purpose of the sale. Your Honor, through the Asset Purchase

Agreement and decretal paragraph 17 of the Sale Order,

Millstone and PNC have agree to provide a \$50,000.00 carve out to the estate. I say Millstone and PNC because while

Millstone has agree to provide the \$50,000.00 carve out, there is a \$200,000.00 available cash threshold.

If the \$200,000.00 available cash threshold is not met, PNC has agree to backstaff that \$50,000.00 carve out. So that regardless of the Debtor's cash situation, \$50,000.00 will be made available to unsecured creditors, to be distributed in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code's priority scheme.

As evidence by the objection filed by the TTB, there is a limited universe of buyers to whom the assets can legally be transferred, given the nature of the business and the nature of the assets. And the value of the business decreases precipitously if it is sold in a liquidation. We believe the current sale does provide the best outcome for the estate, because absent a sale, the only alternative would be conversion of the case. And a presale closing conversion is problematic, for numerous reasons, and not in anyone's interests, and is likely to result in an estate where no money is available for unsecured creditors. PNC receives far less than it is getting under the sale. And significant value is lost.

Your Honor, with those explanations and changes to the Asset Purchase Agreement and Sale Order, it is our belief that we have addressed all of the concerns raised by the United States Trustee.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Callahan? 2 MR. BURNETT: And Your Honor, if I might, I just wanted to chime in and say I agree with all of the comments 3 4 that Ms. Jefferson made, especially as it relates to the -5 the Debtor's position vis a vis the U.S. Trustee and the 6 bankruptcy purpose of the sale. I do concur that she 7 accurately stated also MMD's position on that issue. THE COURT: Mr. Callahan? 8 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, Judge. Kevin Callahan, on behalf 10 of the United States Trustee. Ms. Jefferson has adequately 11 summarized the concerns of the United States Trustee in our 12 objection. Maybe I need to go back a little bit, with the 13 history of this case. And of course, Your Honor was aware 14 that upon filing the petition, the Debtor filed a motion 15 seeking approval of bidding procedures and attached an 16 Agreement of Sale. 17 THE COURT: Mister - I'm going to have to put you on hold. 18 19 [PAUSE IN PROCEEDINGS] 20 THE COURT: I'm sorry. Okay. So, Mr. Callahan, you 21 were saying that the U.S. Trustee, you believe that its 22 objection had been adequately summarized by Ms. Jefferson, 2.3 correct? 24 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, Your Honor.

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THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. CALLAHAN: So, I was - I was referring to when the case was filed there was a motion filed to approve bidding procedures and there was a stalking horse identified as ETOH, Mr. Hamermesh's client. The relevant provision, from my perspective, at the time, was that it proposed to pay trade creditors in full, suggesting that the unsecureds would be paid. PNC ultimately, or eventually objected to that APA, and the Agreement was revised, and that revision indicated that unsecured creditors would not be treated, at least in terms of the Purchase Agreement.

So, up until the - the auction, the only information new had was with respect to the Agreement that was presently on the table. On the day of the auction, I was - I spoke to counsel for PNC who informed me of some of the terms of the Agreement which - which referenced a potential payout of fifty - or a potential fund, carve out, if you will, of \$50,000.00 for unsecured creditors.

We filed the objection, Your Honor, not only on that basis, but in our view there was no articulated exit strategy, by the Debtor, with respect to what it would do once the sale was approved, and the sale closed. There did not appear to be any legitimate bankruptcy purpose. That is to say there was no plan accompanying the motion, and no indication, at least formal indication, from the Debtor, of what it intended to do after the sale was completed.

With the objection, I also filed a motion to convert or dismiss the case, citing some of the same reasons and concerns we had with the sale objection, as well as informing the Court that the Debtor was delinquent with respect to filing financial information. That as we understood it, officers were being paid, despite not having filed notice of their compensation. And that again, did not seem that the Debtor would be there after once the sale is completed. So, there is a hearing scheduled next week on this.

THE COURT: Right.

MR. CALLAHAN: That wasn't coincidental We wanted to see how this hearing would proceed. And after the sale - after the - after the auction, we had extensive discussions, with Ms. Jefferson, who represents the potential Buyer, as well as Ms. Maleski and some conversations with counsel for the Debtor. It has been suggested, although it has not been formally recognized, that conversion of the case to a Chapter 7 may be the appropriate, if you will exit strategy.

The revised, or I guess it is the second revised, or the third agreement that — the first agreement, I should say, between Millstone and the Debtor does have a provision that offers a carve out for — potential carve out for unsecured creditors in the amount of \$50,000.00. And PNC, Ms.

Maleski's client, has agree to set up some framework to protect that money, if the sale was approved, and if for

example the Debtor or the Debtor's principles were no longer seeking to operate the entity, or were - or there was an entity to operate.

So, they have met, I suppose, most of our objections. The revised or the agreement has - was filed, I think, yesterday. That is the Agreement that they are asking Your Honor to approve. And under Third Circuit law, you have to make the findings, with respect to whether there is a good faith, and the other, of course, factors important in this. So, regardless of my objection, I am simply asking you to decide based upon what they are offering today, and of course, the Revised Agreement of Sale that has been filed, whether this sale meets the appropriate criteria under the Third Circuit standards.

I understand that the proposed closing date is now September 30th. I presume we will have further discussions whether the U.S. Trustee will go forward next week, or wait until after closing. But I think it is also appropriate, when we come back to Mr. Burnett, for him to at least give us a coming attraction of what the Debtor's intentions would be if this Court were to approve the sale.

MR. BURNETT: Your Honor, what I wanted to do is, I think what is relevant to Mr. Callahan's -

THE COURT: -- Hold on again, counsel.

MR. BURNETT: I'm sorry.

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Mr. Burnett, before you start with the, THE COURT: as Mr. Callahan said, coming attractions, I am going to need a 10 minute break. Can we come back at, it is 20 of right now, I think. Hold on. It is 20 of. Can we come back at three, I mean 2:50? MR. HAMERMESH: Your Honor, this Mr. Hamermesh. I was just going to ask, my client, - my client's issues have been addressed. Could I be excused please, because I have another hearing that is starting up shortly. THE COURT: Yes, I mean if you feel that they have addressed, and you have withdrawn your objection, and you are satisfied with the Order, yes, you may be excused. MR. HAMERMESH: Thank you, Your Honor. THE COURT: Anybody else? Yes, Your Honor. Howard Gershman, MR. GERSHMAN: our objection has been addressed and withdrawn, and I would also ask permission to be excused from --. THE COURT: Unless I hear some objection, I don't know why, you may be excused too, Mr. Gershman. MR. GERSHMAN: Thank you, Your Honor. THE COURT: Anybody else? MR. ST. JOSEPH: Yes, Your Honor, I guess that just goes for the objections. TTB has also withdrawn their objection. THE COURT: Okay. So, Mr. Joseph, if you want to be 9-15-2021 #21-11750

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excused, you may be excused also. I think you said that you were satisfied, both Mr. - Mr. Hamermesh and Mr. Gershman said that they were satisfied with the Order, so that's fine. MR. ST. JOSEPH: Yes, thank you, Your Honor. THE COURT: All right. Anybody else? I'll be right Thank you for your indulgence, counsel. MR. BURNETT: Thank you, Your Honor. [BREAK] THE COURT: Counsel? MR. BURNETT: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: All right. I think, Mr. Burnett, you were going to, I guess what Mr. Callahan had described as a coming attraction. So, you're up. MR. BURNETT: Well, so, Your Honor, I would like to respond in a couple ways, to what Mr. Callahan to say, well, and I would certainly like to get the proffers of Mr. Parzych and Mr. Comly, as they will give context and allow you to make findings on the sale hearing. As to the coming attractions issue, obviously, the U.S. Trustee has a pending motion, which is - which, you know, we are going to file a response to. And frankly, we have been really concentrating on consummating the sale, for the benefit of the estate and its creditors, as outlined previously in this hearing. You know, we don't know at this time, what we are

going to do. We haven't made a decision. We are not, you know, trying to, you know, do anything other than to proceed to do this sale and to evaluate the what is in the best interest of the estate and its creditors, subsequent to closing. But of course, you know, the U.S. Trustee's objection, excuse me, motion is pending. You know, we have a hearing set up for that. And we will certainly consult with the U.S. Trustee's Office and all parties in interest as it is appropriate as to what the next steps are.

I can't say anything better than that, because that is really the exact state of the knowledge that we are in at this time. This is just a 363 sale hearing. So, I think it might be best, Your Honor, if we could wrap it in context so that you have the benefit of the proffers that allows you to kind of get a sense of, you know, what was done in the sale hearing process, and the like. And then it may allow you to give a, you know, more complete view.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BURNETT: Is that okay? May I proceed with the proffers?

THE COURT: Yes, I am sorry, counsel. Yes, if you are going to make a proffer that you believe would satisfy the various elements that I need to find exist in order to approve the sale, correct?

MR. BURNETT: Yes, Your Honor.

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All right. And you are going to proffer THE COURT: the testimony of Mr. Parzych, and you said also Mr. Comly, correct? That is correct, Your Honor. MR. BURNETT: THE COURT: All right. You may proceed. MR. BURNETT: Thank you, Your Honor. Let me just note also that we have filed an exhibit list, consistent with the Court's Order on zoom hearings, that was served on chambers and parties in interest, and so, we will be referencing those - there is five exhibits there, and I will be referencing them very briefly, in-THE COURT: -- Okay. MR. BURNETT: -- in the proffer. So, I'll - I'll first start with the proffer of Mr. Parzych. If Mr. Parzych was called to testify, he would testify as following, that he is a member and sole officer of Midnight Madness, in a limited liability organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Debtor in this case. MR. CALLAHAN: Excuse me, Judge. THE COURT: Which Parzych? MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry, Mr. Barnett - Burnett, is Mr. Parzych here? Is he present? Oh, Your Honor, thank you Mr. Callahan, MR. BURNETT: I apologize. He was on video. I think he has called in, because he had trouble with his video connection. And I

think he is that 267 number on the bottom. So, he is here, and Mr. Parzych could you verify that you are here?

MR. CASEY PARZYCH: I am here.

THE COURT: And which Mr. Parzych is this?

MR. PARZYCH: Casey Parzych.

THE COURT: All right. Okay.

MR. BURNETT: Thank you, Your Honor. I apologize for that. So, as such, Casey Parzych oversees all aspects of the business of MMD. Mr. Parzych has been a member and officer of MMD since its inception in May of 2012, and he is generally familiar with the Debtor's day to day operations, business and financial affairs and books and records.

On the petition date of June 21st, 2021, MMD filed a voluntary petition for a Chapter 11 under the Bankruptcy Code. MMD operates a distillery and packing plant in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. It employs approximately 80 individuals on a full and part time basis. As of the petition date, MMD was in default of its primary lender, PNC, and its business operations were losing money. Without an outside investment, Mr. Parzych believed that MMD would be unable to pay debt service and to continue operations.

ETOH, at that time, had expressed interest in purchasing the assets of MMD. It was Mr. Parzych's view that MMD could not survive without ETOH, or another purchaser, buying its assets. And that is absent a consummation of a

sale, MMD would likely be liquidating, leaving the Debtor's secured lenders with far less than their portion of the purchase price, trade creditors with nothing, and approximately 80 employees out of jobs, in a small town.

At that time then MMD proceeded with a stalking horse bid to ETOH. The ETOH asset purchase agreement, the original stalking horse, as revised, and as referenced by Mr. Callahan, the - the last iteration of the ETOH Asset Purchase Agreement, generally provided for a purchase price of 1.025 dollars in cash - excuse me, 1.025 million in cash, plus the assumption of certain secured debt, for all or substantially all of the Debtor's assets free and clear of liens. The assumption and cure of substantially all leases and contracts needed for the Debtor's business operations. And specifically the assumption of secured debt such as the first mortgage. And the opportunity for continue employment of substantially of the Debtor's employees.

So, the stalking horse bid, of ETOH, was marked by Comly. MMD worked extensively with Comly to assist Comly in its marketing efforts, setting up the data room, supplementing it with information, as requested by various bidders and PNC and facilitated tours with Comly, etcetera. As a result, of the efforts of Comly, the Parzych would testify that the Debtor and his professional - and with the - in consultation with the Debtor and his professionals, two

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new bids were received prior to the deadline - Millstone 1 2 Spirits, LLC, and Bankshares Realty, LLC, which is 3 essentially a successor by assignment of PNC. It was a credit bid by Bankshares. 4 5 The auction took place via zoom, on August 25th, 6 where the three bidders were in attendance: Millstone, PNC, 7 and a stalking horse bidder, ETOH. And it was conducted, the - the - the zoom auction was conducted by MMD's counsel, Mr. 8 9 Burnett, and Mr. Giacometti. Mr. Parzych would further testify that his counsel filed and served a Notice of Sale, 10 which is Exhibit 3 on the exhibit list, Docket Number 133. 11 12 THE COURT: Hold on. All right. Pull that up for me, 13 John. 14 I'm sorry, Mr. Burnett, what was it labeled as 15 again? 16 MR. BURNETT: It is the Notice of Sale. Revised 17 Notice of Sale. THE COURT: And that is Exhibit what? 18 Three. I am sorry this is out of order, 19 MR. BURNETT: 20 Your Honor, but it is Exhibit 3. 21 THE COURT: That's fine. 22 MR. BURNETT: So, that basically just says we were 23 giving folks notice of the dates. So, I don't need it any 24 further than that. 25 So, Mr. Parzych would testify that MMD's counsel

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served that notice, and that Mr. Parzych was in attendance at all times at the zoom auction. Mr. Parzych would testify that after negotiations, at the auction, during the auction, all bids were normalized and deemed to be capital Q Qualified Bids, and were able to be matched fairly on an apples to apples basis, as competing bids, for MMD's assets, in accordance with the bid procedures order.

Mr. Parzych would testify that in his view the auction that took place was spirited and conducted in good faith by all parties, including the winning bidder, and was conducted in accordance with the Bidding Procedures Order approved by this Court. In Mr. Parzych's view, the process yielded the successful winning bid from Millstone, in the amount of 1.4 million dollars, plus other consideration, including assumption of cure costs and certain administrative liabilities, per the terms of the administrative – excuse me, of the Asset Purchase Agreement filed with this Court. And that is Exhibit 1, docket number 172, and also the black line to the stalking horse bid, which is Exhibit 2, docket number 173.

Although those could be pulled up, I don't really have much to say about them, other than we filed them of record, and they - the Exhibit 2, which is up now, and - right Exhibit 2 is the stalking horse bid comparison. So, the full bid and the final APA comparison between the

stalking horse and the AAPA, which is being submitted to Your Honor, for approval today.

And Exhibit 1, which is docket 172, but the - 172-1, which is the exhibit to that Order, if you will. And that is the claim of the APA. Yes, there it is, yes. Oh, right. So, those - that is the reference to those two exhibits. And - and this item - yes, thank you.

Mr. Parzych would further testify that the has reviewed the Millstone Asset Purchase Agreement, as revised, and as filed with this Court this morning, and believes that it represents the highest and best offer for the assets. Mr. Parzych would testify that he has considered the impact of the potential sale on the post-petition operations of MMD. And based on his review of the business operations, and the cash position, of MMD, as well as the provisions in the Millstone Asset Purchase Agreement and the Sale Order, Mr. Parzych believes that there will be sufficient funds to pay all current and trailing administrative expenses of MMD, incurred from the petition date through to the closing of the sale.

And in general conclusion, Mr. Parzych believes that the Asset Purchase Agreement, from Millstone, is fair and reasonable under the circumstances overall. Mr. Parzych would testify that he believes that the sales transaction is the highest and best offer that can be obtained for the

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made by Mr. Burnett?

assets here. Mr. Parzych believes that the consummation of the transaction with Millstone is in the best interest of the estate, and is a valid exercise of his sound business judgement. Mr. Parzych believes that to his knowledge - and believes that there is no collusion between Millstone and any other potential bidder. Mr. Parzych would testify that the negotiations with his professionals and the purchaser, were at all times conducted in good faith and at arm's length, and that the purchaser is a good faith purchaser with respect to the transaction contemplated by the sale - through the sale documents. Mr. Parzych would lastly testify that he believes that based on his experience, and upon reliance of advice from his professionals, that the entry of the proposed order approving the transaction and authorization of the Asset Purchase Agreement, with Millstone, is justified and should be approved. And that would be the conclusion of the proffer of Mr. Casey. I don't know if you would like me to break here and-THE COURT: -- Yes. MR. BURNETT: -- Or if you just want me to proceed with Mr. Comly. THE COURT: No, break here. Does anyone wish to - to cross examine, Mr. Parzych, based on the proffer that was

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MR. CALLAHAN: Judge, Kevin Callahan, from the U.S.

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       Trustee. I have a few questions for Mr. Parzych.
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                                 Wait, we have to swear him in.
              THE COURT:
                          Okay.
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              THE COURT DEPUTY: Mr. Parzych, do you swear that the
       testimony you are about to give to the Court will be the
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       truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?
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              MR. PARZYCH: I do.
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              THE COURT DEPUTY: Could you please state and spell
       your name for the record.
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 9
                             Casev Parzych, C-A-S-E-Y P-A-R-Z-Y-C-H.
              MR. PARZYCH:
              THE COURT DEPUTY: And I just need you to please
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11
       state your address for the record.
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              MR. PARZYCH: 138 North Main Street, Trumbauersville,
13
       PA.
14
              THE COURT:
                          What - what town or city was that?
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              MR. PARZYCH: Trumbauersville.
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              THE COURT: Could you spell that, I'm not - I'm not
17
       understanding you.
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              MR. PARZYCH: T-R-U-M-B-A-U-E-R-S-V-I-L-L-E.
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              THE COURT DEPUTY: Trumbauersville.
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                          Trumbauersville, okay. Okay. You can
              THE COURT:
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       proceed. Wait, did you swear him in? I'm sorry, I - did you
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       say -
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              THE COURT DEPUTY: -- Yes, we did, Judge.
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              THE COURT: All right.
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              THE COURT DEPUTY; Thank you, Mr. Parzych.
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1	THE COURT: I'm sorry.
2	MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Parzych could you please state
3	your relationship with Midnight Madness Distillery?
4	MR. PARZYCH: I am the president, currently, and sole
5	officer.
6	MR. CALLAHAN: And Mr. Burnett just made what is
7	called a proffer, to the Court. Were you present during that
8	proffer, at least over the phone?
9	MR. PARZYCH: Yes.
10	MR. CALLAHAN: And do you agree with the information
11	that he presented to the Court?
12	MR. PARZYCH: I do.
13	MR. CALLAHAN: And if this - if this agreement is
14	approved by the Court, do you have any personal agreements
15	with Millstone, or anyone acting on their behalf?
16	MR. PARZYCH: I do not.
17	MR. CALLAHAN: Do any of your family members have any
18	agreements with Millstone or anyone on Millstone's behalf?
19	MR. PARZYCH: None that I am aware of, no.
20	MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. And if this agree - if this
21	sale is approved, what - what is your intentions for
22	employment?
23	MR. PARZYCH: I will be looking for employment.
24	MR. CALLAHAN: Has anyone made any offers of
25	employment to you?
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1 MR. PARZYCH: No. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. And if the Court approves this agreement, what do you see your role as over the next several 3 4 weeks, at least through September 30th, with the company? 5 MR. PARZYCH: Basically maintaining it to be 6 delivered to Millstone. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: And is it your intent to comply with all the - with the cash collateral agreement that has been 8 9 reached with PNC? 10 MR. PARZYCH: It is. MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Your Honor, thank you. I, and 11 12 thank you, Mr. Parzych. I have no further questions. 13 THE COURT: Anyone else have any questions for Mr. 14 Parzych? Any follow up, Mr. Burnett, based on the questions 15 that were raised by Mr. Callahan? 16 MR. BURNETT: I do not, and I appreciate the 17 questions raised by Mr. Callahan. THE COURT: Okay. All right. 18 19 MR. BURNETT: So, if - with Your Honor's permission, 20 if I may proceed to the testimony of Mr. Jim Comly. 21 THE COURT: Okay. 22 MR. BURNETT: Your Honor, to proffer the testimony of 23 Jim Comly, if called to testify, Mr. Comly would testify that 24 he is the Vice President of William F. Comly and Son, Inc. 25 William F. Comly and - he would testify that William F. Comly

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and Son, Inc. is one of the oldest auction companies in the United States, founded in 1934. And that Comly was - has flourished to become a leading regional, industrial auction firm serving the needs of manufacturing companies, industrial plants, secured lenders, lawyers, bankruptcy courts, and owners, for seven generations.

Mr. Comly would testify that he has extensive experience in brokering and marketing distressed assets for over 15 years, in the region, and elsewhere, and also before this Court for Chapter 11 cases, as well as Chapter 7 cases. Mr. Comly would testify that he is familiar with the Chapter 11, 363 sales process, and with the procedures.

In terms of MMD, Mr. Comly would testify that Comly, William F. Comly and Son has been retained, by this Court, to be the broker and marketer, sales agent for the proposed sale. And that Comly was hired, by the Debtor, due to Comly's extensive experience in the - with similar sales in the industry, geographic area, and will assist MMD in realizing the highest and best prices - price for the assets.

Comly, and Mr. Comly specifically, prepared and implemented a marketing program to promote the sale of the assets. And as reference to that there is Exhibit 5, which is the Comly exhibit of the marketing material, which is essentially a list of Mr. Comly's expense — or excuse me, Comly's expenses, as well as a copy of the ad and the

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brochure. The prices are not relevant. What is relevant is the different activity and the nice little glossy picture there, with the assets. Thank you for that, Exhibit 5.

Exhibit 5 is representative of what Mr. Comly, excuse me, what Comly has done.

So, in terms of the compensation structure, which is relevant in connection with Comly's actions here, subject to further order of the Court, Comly will be compensated as They receive \$6,500.00 for a marketing fee and labor and travel expenses for \$2,500.00. But most importantly, although - although Mr. Comly would testify that although Comly is paid a flat fee to market the assets, Comly is incentivized here to find a new bidder. If another party submitted an offer that is higher and better, and acceptable to the Debtor, and this Court, Comly would be entitled to receive a ten percent (10%) commission of the difference between the initial stalking horse bid and the final successful bid. This is relevant just to show - we are not here to hear Mr. Comly's commission today, but it is relevant to show the incentive - the incentive that Comly was given to market.

So, pursuant to their engagement, Mr. Comly would testify that their marketing efforts included direct mail solicitation, over 500 colored postcards mailed on July the 15th, to an acquired mailing list comprising of distilleries,

alcohol distributors, bar restaurant owners, business brokers, and liquor license attorneys in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and surrounding areas, as well as members of various food and beverage associations. Comly also did advertisement placed in regional newspapers, Philadelphia Enquirer, Daily News, Lancaster Farming and internet direct mail postcard and details were placed on the website, along with photographs of the assets being offered for sale.

Mr. Comly would testify that in addition, they placed advertisements of the sale on the business and restaurant trade websites, included websites Biz Buy Sell, BizQuest, Businesses for Sale, Restaurant for Sale, as well as auction websites, Comly.com and AuctionZip, as well as various association websites, social media sites, Craigs List, Facebook, Google, Business LinkedIn, and Twitter. And also email blast professional prepared electronic sale notice was sent to Comly's extensive inhouse mailing list of over 18,920 opt in subscribers, as well as bidders in prevable [sic] comparable – previous comparable auction sales of opt in subscribers under various categories such as business brokers, attorneys, bar and restaurant owners, distilleries, and alcohol distributors.

Mr. Comly would testify that through all of that marketing efforts it generated the following types of interest. They received 25 interested parties that contacted

Comly, 14 returned signed NDAs, including PNC. Seventeen different people were granted access to the data room. Four tours and inspections were - were conducted onsite. Comly would testify that he and Comly fielded bidder questions all throughout the process.

Mr. Comly would testify that as a result of the efforts of Comly, and MMD, and MMD's professionals, that two new bids were received prior to the deadline - Millstone Spirits Group, LLC, as well as Bankshares Realty, LLC, which is PNC, which was a credit bid.

Mr. Comly would testify that the auction took place on August 25th, 2021, via zoom, with the three bidders:
Millstone, PNC, and the stalking horse bidder. And that it was conducted by counsel to MMD. Mr. Comly would testify that he was in attendance at all times during the - during the zoom auction. Mr. Comly would testify that, after negotiations at the auction, all bids were normalized and deemed to be qualified bids, and able to be matched fairly, on an apples to apples basis, as competing bids for MMD's assets, in accordance with the Bid Procedures Order.

Mr. Comly would testify that in his view, the auction that took place was spirited and conducted in good faith, by all parties, including the winning bidder, and was conducted in accordance with the Bid Procedures Order approved by this Court. Mr. Comly would testify that the process that yielded

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the successful winning bid, from Millstone, in the amount of \$1.4 million plus other consideration, per the terms of the Asset Purchase Agreement, files with this Court, is the highest and best offer at the auction.

And Mr. Comly would testify that based on his years of experience in the industry, that he believes that Comly's efforts marketing the assets were reasonable and appropriate for a transaction of this size in this industry. Mr. Comly would testify that, at all times, his interactions with the bidders were in good faith, at arm's length, and conducted for the purpose of maximizing the sale of the assets being sold here.

Lastly, Mr. Comly would testify that based on his years of experience in the industry, that he believes that Comly's work marketing these assets helped yield the highest and best offer that could be obtained for these assets under the circumstances. And that is the conclusion of this proffer.

THE COURT: Any cross examination of Mr. Comly? Mr. Callahan? Anyone?

MR. CALLAHAN: Judge, I have no questions for this gentleman.

THE COURT: Okay. Anything else, counsel?

MR. BURNETT: Your Honor, certainly subject to any questions Your Honor may have, that concludes the Debtor's

1 presentation. 2 And I - just a quick look. So, the THE COURT: 3 Debtor is selling this real estate, equipment, and the entire business, correct? 4 Basically, yes, Your Honor. Obviously, 5 MR. BURNETT: 6 the - the purchased assets are specifically listed, but 7 essentially that is correct. THE COURT: Right, I just looked at the flyer and it 8 9 just says - on one of the exhibits that you had, there was a 10 quick - I looked at it and it said real estate, distillery, 11 and something else. And it was like a quick look at it. 12 MR. BURNETT: Yes, that is correct, Your Honor. Yes. 13 THE COURT: So, - so, they were selling it as a going 14 concern, correct? 15 MR. BURNETT: That is correct. 16 THE COURT: Okay. Okay. anything else that you 17 would like to submit - well, you made the proffer. 18 proffer of Mr. Comly was accepted. No one did any - any 19 additional questions. Are there any exhibits that you would 20 like to introduce into evidence in support of the sale? 21 MR. BURNETT: I would like to move exhibits 1 through 22 5 into evidence. 2.3 THE COURT: Did we talk about all of them? 24 MR. BURNETT: We did, Your Honor. We did touch upon 25 They - they - essentially, they are, the first four 9-15-2021 #21-11750

are all filed documents on the docket. And the last one is Comly's marketing materials.

THE COURT: Any objection to the admission of Exhibit 1 through 5? Okay. Hearing no objections, which is Exhibit 1 - whoop, back up John. Exhibit 1 which is the Asset Purchase Agreement between Midnight and Millstone. The clean version is being submitted. I don't think we need to admit the red ones, just on the docket. Number 3 was the Bid Procedures Order that was entered by the Court on docket number 110. That is admitted. The Revised Notice of Sale of Assets, docket number 133, that is admitted. And number 5, the Comly Auctioneer Marketing Materials are admitted. Anything else Mr. Burnett?

MR. BURNETT: No, Your Honor. Nothing else.

THE COURT: Okay. So, are you going to give once — we have made a record. You have offered in evidence. Any conclusion as to how this sale should — why this sale should be approved in that it satisfies the standard for approval of a sale under 363, a summary of why it meets the — the adequate notice requirement, good faith, sound business judgement, fair and reasonable price? Conclusion counsel? Why you think I should approve all of that?

MR. BURNETT: You said it better than I could, Your Honor, but for all of those reasons, I am happy to articulate them, but the - the sale was, in fact, conducted in good

faith and at arm's length. It was the product of, you know, spirited negotiation that yielded the highest and best offer through a fully marketed process. Under the circumstances, it seems uncontested, from an evidentiary standpoint, that it is in the best interest of the estate and its creditors to have this sale be consummated, based on the terms as articulated previously on the record. For those reasons, we respectfully request that Your Honor enter the Order and authorized us to enter into the Asset Purchase Agreement and consummate the closing of the sale.

THE COURT: Okay. Anyone else - any comments before the Court issues its findings? Okay. In connection with the standard that the Debtors have to establish in order for the Court to approve the sale under 363, the first thing that the Court must find that there was adequate notice. I think Exhibit 4 was the Notice of Revised Hearing of Sale. The Debtor has provided adequate notice. The sale was the result of good faith negotiations, as evidenced by the auction, and the proffered testimony of Mr. Parzych and Mr. Comly, who both participated in the negotiation and the sale, plus the auction.

That the sale is supported by evidence of a sound business justification, namely Mr. Parzych, his proffered testimony is that if a sale did not occur, that given the financial condition of the business, that it would result in

a liquidation, because they apparently had insufficient assets to continue as a going concern.

The next is that the purchaser will pay a fair and reasonable price. I think that the - I find that the price is fair and reasonable. It was a result of negotiations and at an auction. The Debtor originally had a stalking horse agreement for \$1.04 million plus some other - some other assumed liabilities. The successful bidder is paying approximately \$1.4 plus some other additional amounts.

I also find that the - that the sale is in the best - is a proper exercise of good business judgement. I also find that there was no collusion between the bidders, and that the proposed purchaser, Millstone, is a good faith purchaser. Based on all of those findings, I will issue an Order approving the sale of the Debtor's business to Millstone. And with that said, counsel, I think we need to take a look at the proposed Order.

MR. BURNETT: Thank you very much, Your Honor. Yes, the proposed Order was filed this morning. And it was also, I should note that, as Ms. Jefferson noted, that this was the product of discussion among the parties and is a - essentially a resolution of a lot of the issues here, and was reviewed, substantially, by all the parties in interest. So, it reflects both a resolution of some of the objections, as well as dovetails in with the revised APA. So,--

THE COURT: -- Yes. So, so, all of the objections having been withdrawn, there was really nothing the Court could consider, in terms of resolving any objections.

THE COURT: Correct.

THE COURT: So, I guess I should state that on the record, which is why I didn't address them, because they are all withdrawn. There is really nothing for me to address, with respect to objections.

MR. BURNETT: Correct. I guess I wanted to say, Your Honor, that the Order incorporates the resolutions that resolve those objections, but yes.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. Let's pull that up.

All right. Is there anything specific that you think - I

mean the first couple of pages are background. Let's get to

- John, let's scroll through this. I think we probably
well, okay. Move that on down farther.

MR. BURNETT: -- And if I - if I might, I may also invite Ms. Jefferson to unmute and - and speak in too, because she did such a laboring war on the Order as well.

We-

THE COURT: -- Right. Right. No, the - John, go back up. Go back up, because the first thing it says is that the Court has jurisdiction on a statutory basis. We know that. Go down. I think the D, Due Proper Timely Adequate and Sufficient Notice and a Reasonable Opportunity has been

provided, which the Court has found. Because adequate notice is when you provide a reference to the sale, a description of the assets, the terms and condition of the proposed sale, the means by which a party could obtain a copy of it, and the time and place of the hearing on the sale motion, the deadline for objecting to sales, all of that was provided.

And I think it referenced that - that those paragraph E sets forth and satisfied the adequate notice provision.

And then we are at F. It says that based on the — the evidence adduced at the hearing, Debtor determined that the Asset Purchase Agreement, which you are going to fill in the docket number, represents the highest and best offer.

[Inaudible] pay. A non-collusive, duly notice, I have already found that. And that all of the sale procedures have been complied with in all materials respects.

Next, let's see what G says. Shall have the authority to consummate, includes sufficient and sound business justification, which I have already described as being able to - to avoid the business being liquidated and being able to be sold as a going concern, plus there would be sufficient funds to pay PNC, I think is the [inaudible] creditors, and there is sufficient money being carved out for unsecured creditors. Was negotiated and that is a good faith negotiations. I have made that finding, based on the - the record that was made. The Buyer is not an insider. Although

I'm not really sure that you said that. I don't know, I think the focus of Mr. Callahan's questions was what was the Debtor's principle's post-sale relationship with the - with the Buyer. I don't really think there was any specific information regarding Millstone, the owners of Millstone. But there wasn't anything in the record that would suggest that they were anything other than a disinterested party in this instance and not an insider, based on the proffer that the interest from Millstone was the result of the marketing efforts of Comly. And that, so based on that, I find that - that they are a good faith purchaser, and I have to find that they are not an insider as defined in Section 1v1. Okay.

MR. BURNETT: Your Honor, if I could just supplement.

I mean they - they are a competitor, and they - they aren't
an insider. I can testify to that. And I could have Mr.

Parzych's testify to that, but they are not an insider.

THE COURT: Right, I - well, I think I am satisfied, based on the fact that they, my understanding is they came to this deal through the efforts of Comly and their marketing.

At least I didn't hear anything to the contrary.

MR. BURNETT: Correct.

THE COURT: And I am basing my conclusion based on that. Yes, we didn't talk about them not being an insider, but there wasn't anything that would suggest that they were. And that their interest was other than as a disinterested

party brought in through the marketing efforts. Okay

Then J, I have already found that it was not controlled, it was the result of an auction. Based on the proffered testimony of Mr. Parzych and Mr. Comly, that it was the result of a "spirited auction" where all parties, three bidders were there, and it was the highest and best offer as a result of that, and it wasn't - there isn't any evidence of any collusion. Okay.

And then K, I did find that the Buyer is a good faith purchaser, and that the Buyer is acting in good faith within the meaning of Section 363M. I didn't say that specifically, but I did find that it was a good faith purchaser, based on the fact that this was the result of an auction. It was the result of negotiation, and it was - appeared to be the highest and best offer. Okay.

Which I think I already kind of jumped into L, which it was a fair and reasonable, and that I have already said, with respect to recovery to the creditors, that absent this sale there would be some recovery to secured creditor, but none for the unsecured creditors. Plus it is in the best interest of the - the Debtor in the sense, that I understand there is 80 employees. So, although it says best interest of creditors, I think sometimes we have to take that into consideration.

All right, and the rest is just what happens to the

assets. I don't really need to make any findings with respect to that. All those other things, I think with respect to my finding, it was only that it was proper notice, good faith negotiations, sound business justification, and a fair and reasonable price, and that the purchaser is a good faith purchaser. All of which has been set out in the preamble. At least I am assuming these paragraphs are the preamble. Keep going down, John.

Okay. And then there is going to be a cure and assumption as set forth in Exhibit B. Are there any other things that have to be added, counsel, other than the docket entry number that we saw at the very beginning?

MR. BURNETT: No, Your Honor. I believe that is the only - the only blank, in the - in the document.

THE COURT: John, can you just - sale is granted.

Had not been withdrawn. I do not have to deny or overrule

because they have all been withdrawn, or approved. To

address [inaudible] nexus number. I am assuming there is a

five. There is probably all sorts of language which you want

me to make a finding of. That there is authorized to execute,

deliver, and perform [inaudible] Asset Purchase Agreement.

John, go down to five. Okay.

I don't think there was any substantive or real changes other than dollar, with respect to the original that was filed, and the black line. Is that correct, Mr. Burnett?

1 MR. BURNETT: Regarding? 2 The - this Agreement, the proposed Order. THE COURT: 3 MR. BURNETT: This proposed Order was filed first, just now. So, there wasn't a prior proposed Order. This is 4 5 our Sale Order that was filed. 6 THE COURT: Oh, okay. You know what, it was the 7 black line Asset Purchase redline as you called it. MR. BURNETT: Correct. Correct. 8 9 THE COURT: Okay. I thought there was one with the 10 original sale motion, but maybe I - maybe I might have 11 thought I - because often when I get a proposed - a request 12 to approve bidding procedures and process, typically I will 13 see an Order attached. And I thought I did. But I-14 MR. BURNETT: -- Just the bid procedures. Yes, given 15 the complexity, we did the bid procedures, and this is the 16 Sale Order. 17 THE COURT: All right. Look, John, put it back up 18 and let me make sure, because I thought I saw this. 19 Apparently, I didn't. I thought I - I have seen enough of 20 them that I - I quess I thought I saw one. Because as I said, 21 22 MR. BURNETT: -- No, --23 THE COURT: -- they are often attached, and then I 24 have to make sure I don't sign that when I sign the Bid 25 Procedures Order.

#21-11750

1 MR. BURNETT: Right. 2 Okay. See they did the Purchase THE COURT: Agreement, yes. Uh oh, it kicked you back out, John? 3 THE COURT DEPUTY: Of course. 4 5 Eileen, was that also sent to you? THE COURT: 6 think you said you got an Order from Mr. Giacometti. Is that 7 - is that the same thing we are talking about? So, no, we're not - we don't want that. I thought attached to that had 8 9 been a proposed Order, and it wasn't. So, it is going to be 10 the most latest - it should be one of the later entry on the 11 - on the docket, which is what we are looking at now. 12 there wasn't one. [Inaudible] for me to look, because I thought I saw one. But all right, let me just keep going 13 14 I don't - I want to make sure that there is nothing in 15 here that I would not want to be included. All right. 16 Yes, as provided. And the TTB has been whatever it 17 is that you guys have agreed. Then there are some exhibits that have been attached, that reference whatever that 18 19 agreement is with respect to the excise tax. I know there 20 was a reference to a paragraph. What paragraph was that? 21 MS. JEFFERSON: Your Honor it is to paragraph 5. 22 THE COURT: All right. Did I miss that. Go back up, 2.3 John. 24 If you go back up, it's the - it's MS. JEFFERSON: 25 the very bottom of page seven that provides that the sale is #21-11750 9-15-2021

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1
       free and clear of all liens and encumbrances of any kind,
 2
       other than federal excise tax-
 3
              THE COURT: -- Which may be attached to inventory
       concerning the specifically [inaudible]. Okay. And then,
 4
 5
       there was another reference, I guess, to paragraph five.
 6
       just wanted to make sure.
 7
              There was a reference to Mr. Hamermesh's client.
                                                                 Was
       that - what paragraph was that?
 8
 9
              MS. JEFFERSON: Yes, Your Honor. That is - I'm sorry.
       That - that is specifically in the Asset Purchase Agreement.
10
11
              THE COURT: Okay. I thought it-
12
              MS. JEFFERSON: Payment of [inaudible].
13
              THE COURT:
                         Right. I know you, at some point, were
14
       referencing certain sections of the Asset Purchase Agreement.
15
      And then also the paragraphs where, in the Sale Order, that
16
       was.
17
              MS. JEFFERSON: Yes.
18
              THE COURT: Right.
19
              MS. JEFFERSON: Your Honor, that's what -
20
              THE COURT: -- [Inaudible].
21
              MS. JEFFERSON: Yes. That was with respect to the
22
       $300,000.00 cash holdback and the $50,000.00 carve out.
23
       Those are addressed in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Order.
24
              THE COURT:
                          Okay. Let's see that.
25
              MS. JEFFERSON: Paragraph 17 addresses PNC's backstop,
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of the carve out. Carve out is as defined in the Asset
Purchase Agreement, and it is prefunded by PNC.

THE COURT: Right. And we talked about the pre's so that PNC would not - would not release funds or claims for - without the Debtor's approval. That is that process in - in 18?

MS. JEFFERSON: That is correct, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Let me see the next one. Well, we kind of skipped around, but offering of the Buyer, subject to the conditions [inaudible] unpaid administrative claims, all of which are defined in the Asset Purchase Agreement.

Correct, counsel?

MS. JEFFERSON: That is correct.

THE COURT: Okay. Next paragraph, John. All right, 363f protection, this is the [inaudible]. Okay. Keep going. So, counsel, is there anything other than the standard language that says, you know, what is supposed to happen with this - what the terms - what the effect is, or any other terms, other than just basically saying what the legal consequences are, after the paragraph 24? Because it seems like where do we - John, go down. Because I am assuming there are some exhibits. That's why we are all the way up here. Okay. Same Order. Keep going. Yup. Okay. So, that's the end of the Order. And then there is the Asset Purchase Agreement, of which we have seen the black line and

the clean copy, which was Exhibit 2 and 3, I think. 1 2 MR. BURNETT: Correct, Judge. THE COURT: All right. All right. And then, I think, 3 are there - are there any other exhibits to the Agreement, 4 5 other than I - there were some references to certain 6 agreements, I mean certain documents. That's the Asset 7 Purchase Agreement. What - there's the schedules that the parties were referring to, because I think, at one point, Ms. 8 9 Jefferson made a - something was added to 1.03. What was it 10 that was added? MS. JEFFERSON: That is correct, Your Honor. 11 12 United States of America, on behalf of the TTB, was added as an assumed liability, at the end of Schedule 1.03. 13 14 THE COURT: Okay. 15 MS. JEFFERSON: And they are at the very bottom. 16 MR. BURNETT: But it's there. Yes, correct. 17 THE COURT: Counsel, I am going to have to apologize. 18 I have to hold again, once. [PAUSE IN PROCEEDING] 19 20 THE COURT: All right, counsel, I promise this is the 21 last interruption for today. And so, they were - they were 22 added at 1.03. Okay. And their lien is secured by the 2.3 inventory. And that is the inventory as of - you negotiated 24 whatever that time period, or is the inventory that is being 25 sold pursuant to the Asset Purchase Agreement?

MS. JEFFERSON: Your Honor, it is the inventory that is being sold pursuant to the Asset Purchase Agreement, that would be the inventory that the lien is still attached to.

THE COURT: Okay. Because obviously, if there is any other excise, it will be post-sale and from what I understand, the Purchaser also has - is an approved distributor or approved by the TTB.

MS. JEFFERSON: That's - that is correct, Your Honor.

And I've - I've learned a little about this process

throughout the case. But because Millstone is a licensed

distiller of distilled spirits, and has a TTB license on file,

they are permitted to take - take possession of and title to

the distilled spirits under bond, which means that the excise

tax will not be payable until we actually sell it to a third

party.

THE COURT: So, okay. All right. And so, the other paragraphs relates to the mortgage, and the real property, correct?

MS. JEFFERSON: Those are the - yes, those are the title exceptions.

THE COURT: Okay. Scheduled for disclosure,

perpended exceptions. Is there anything else? I mean

because we didn't talk about that. But that - that's why I

asked what was being sold. And then, the exceptions are the

liens, the different vehicles, pay care, okay. And what is

the next exhibit is - and that related to the - there were none. And the Chapter 5 issue that Mr. Callahan raised, related to claims against the purchaser or their affiliates, correct?

MS. JEFFERSON: That is correct, Your Honor. And that is Section 101k of the Asset Purchase Agreement, and decretal paragraph 10 of the Order, that makes very clear that the only Chapter 5 causes of action being sold to the Buyer relate to those claims that would be against the Buyer, its affiliates, and the holders of assumed liabilities. So, a very limited universe of parties.

THE COURT: Are there any other Chapter 5 claims?

Because I think Mr. Callahan was satisfied there aren't any claims under 547, 548, are any of those things? And if they are, they are not being sold, if they are, correct?

MS. JEFFERSON: Correct. There - there may be some. They will remain with the estate.

THE COURT: Okay. Okay.

MR. BURNETT: Correct.

THE COURT: And those are the only agreements. And they have agreed, I think something about they are going to retain, to an extent, I guess, I'm not sure of the process, the - there is approximately 80 employees. Eighty composed - comprised of full and part time employees, correct?

MS. JEFFERSON: That is correct, Your Honor. It is

the - the Asset Purchase Agreement does not obligate the Buyer to retain all those employees. But it is our intention to do so, to the greatest extent possible. And it - it was an item that we have teed up for the period in between entry of the Sale Order and closing, to - to figure out exactly how we are going to handle that, with the Debtor. But it is our intention to keep as many of the employees as we possibly can, and keep this as a-

THE COURT: -- One of the questions - one of the questions that no one asked, and I guess I sort of thought about it in a - in a passing [inaudible]. I understand that the principle of the company is not being retained. Is any of his family members being retained as employees, or have any post-sale agreements, with the Buyer?

MS. JEFFERSON: There are none.

MR. BURNETT: Your Honor, I believe he testified - oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead, Ms. Jefferson. I believe he testified the answer to those questions are no. And the answer - the answer that counsel-

THE COURT: -- Well, no, it was as to him. I don't think - did Mr. Callahan ask him about his family?

MR. BURNETT: He - he did, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Oh, okay. I must have missed it. I'm sorry. All right. Anybody, I mean I think the Order is fine. I don't have any other questions. Does anyone else have any

1 issue with respect to the proposed Order, since it was filed 2 this morning? Did every - I am assuming everybody had an 3 opportunity to review. Is there any comment, questions, 4 concerns, that anyone has with respect to the Order that I 5 would be entering approving the sale? 6 Okay, hearing no comments, I will approve the sale 7 and issue - and sign the Order, the proposed Order that has been submitted by the Debtor. Is there anything else that 8 9 anyone else wish to bring to the Court's attention, or think 10 that the Court needs to address, with respect to this matter 11 - for today? 12 MS. JEFFERSON: None from the Buyer. Thank you for 13 your time, Your Honor. 14 MR. BURNETT: Thank you very much, Your Honor. 15 greatly appreciate your time. 16 THE COURT: Okay. Having - having heard no comments, 17 this will conclude the matters that are scheduled before the Court today. Court is adjourned until tomorrow at 9:30. 18 19 Thank you counsel, and thank you for your indulgence. 20 MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you. 21 MR. BURNETT: Thank you very much. 22 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you, Your Honor. 2.3 THE COURT: All right. Bye bye. 24 (Proceedings concluded at 3:47 p.m.) 25

1	CERTIFICATE	ļ
2	I, Joyce A. Waser, court approved transcriber, certify that	
3	the foregoing is a correct transcript from the official	
4	electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-	_
5	entitled matter.	
	entitled matter.	
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8	Awasir October 11, 2021	
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